

According to many scientists, global warming poses the single largest environmental threat with consequences for economies and communities throughout the world. While continuing to encourage national leadership to curb greenhouse gas emissions, the City of Redmond has joined forces with Seattle to prompt local governments, citizens and businesses to take action now to make a difference.

Climate disruption

A global and local problem, studies indicate that the last decade was the hottest in at least 1,000 years—with carbon dioxide levels higher today than any other point in the last 420,000 years. Scientists project that due to these rising temperatures, the Pacific Northwest can expect higher temperatures, wetter winters, drier summers, reduced river flows, increased coastal flooding and erosion and decreased forest health and productivity. Of particular concern is a change in our region's snowpack, which we depend on for much of our region's drinking water supply, electricity, recreation, fish habitat and irrigation. Since 1950, the Cascades snowpack has been reduced by 50 percent and scientists predict that by 2050 climate change could reduce snowpack by another 50 percent.



RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE *Environment*

“We want Redmond to be a safe place to raise a family now and in the future. Global climate disruption is a serious threat to our local economy and quality of life. Sustainability means economic viability, but it also means building a city-wide infrastructure that supports the environment and our quality of life.” Mayor Rosemarie Ives

How we are reducing our emissions

Redmond's “smart growth” strategies, particularly as related to transportation planning, reduce global warming pollution by decreasing dependence on cars and increasing energy efficiency. These strategies have received recognition both locally and nationally.

Areas of impact

R-TRIP (Redmond Trip Reduction Incentive Program) is a public-private partnership (funded largely by the City's business

tax) between the City of Redmond, King County Metro Transit, the Greater Redmond Transportation Management Association (GRTMA) and Redmond employers designed to improve mobility and air quality by reducing drive-alone commute trips.

In June 2006, City of Redmond was awarded a 2006 City Livability Award for Outstanding Achievement by the United States Conference of Mayors and Waste Management in recognition of R-TRIP. City Livability Awards recognize and honor mayors for exemplary

leadership in developing and implementing programs that improve the quality of life in America's cities.

In 2005, the R-TRIP program was recognized by the US Environmental Protection Agency with their Clean Air Excellence Award for outstanding, innovative efforts in improving air quality.

Diesel emissions reduction

Diesel emissions contain a hazardous mix of pollutants that can affect public health. City employee Andrew Rheame, Environmental Protection Program Coordinator, Natural

Resources Division of Public Works, addressed the City's diesel emissions by obtaining a grant through Puget Sound Clean Air Administration (PSCCA) to retrofit the City's diesel vehicles with special catalytic converters that cut emissions. PSCCA specialist Paul Carr says the diesel oxidation catalyst, which is much like a catalytic converter on gasoline engines, reduces global warming emissions by more than 40 percent. Additionally, ultra-low sulfur diesel is used in all maintenance vehicles. Fire mechanic Frank Moffit is also using these devices on a fleet of fire equipment.

To reduce energy costs and emissions, the City plans to perform a no idling training in the near future. In addition, Public Works has purchased three hybrid vehicles for City vehicle use and plans to increase that number after a trial period.

Protection of green infrastructure

Forests and Tree Cover

The City of Redmond has a solid commitment to preserving forest cover in the county. Nearly half of Redmond's total forest is contained in the City's two outlying parks -- Farrel-McWhirter and Redmond Watershed. These parks each contain some of the densest and highest-quality forest stands remaining in the Bear Creek Watershed.

Wetlands

The City's overall goal is no loss of wetlands. Wetlands are fragile ecosystems that assist in the reduction of erosion, flooding, ground and surface water pollution and provide wildlife, plant and fisheries habitats. Wetland buffers serve to moderate runoff volume and

flow rates; reduce chemical nutrients, sediment and toxic pollutants; provide shading to maintain desirable water temperatures; provide habitat for wildlife; protect wetland resources from harmful intrusion and generally preserve the ecological integrity of the wetland area.

What residents can do

Reduce Consumption.

There are fossil-fuel emissions at every stage of manufacturing and transport of what you buy. Ask yourself, could you borrow, rent or find it secondhand?

Buy things that last.

Produce less waste by choosing durable items over disposable ones, repairing items rather than discarding them and passing on items that you no longer need.

Reduce waste before you buy.

Give preference

to products that use recycled packaging or don't use excessive packaging. When possible, buy in bulk and seek out things that come in refillable bottles.

Recycle. Redmond provides facilities for the collection and recycling of paper, glass, steel, aluminum and plastic. The hauling, sorting, cleaning and reprocessing of these materials takes far less energy than sending recyclables to landfills and creating new paper, bottles and cans from raw materials. It's been said that if 100,000 people who currently don't recycle began to do so, they would collectively reduce carbon emissions by 42,000 tons per year. As an added bonus, recycling reduces pollution and saves natural resources.

Don't waste paper. Paper manufacturing is the fourth-most energy-intensive industry and one of the most polluting and destructive to our forests. Recycle paper and limit your

use of paper towels. Use cloth rags and napkins. Write on both sides of paper whenever possible. Stop unwanted junk mail.

Bag your groceries and other purchases in a reusable tote. Americans go through 100 billion grocery bags per year. One estimate suggests that Americans use more than 12 million barrels of oil each year just to produce the plastic grocery bags that end up in landfills after only one use.

Share the ride. Don't drive alone when another option might exist, either by carpooling, riding the bus, biking or walking.

What businesses can do

Lead by example. The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (www.pscleanair.org) commends businesses and

ACTIONS REDMOND HAS TAKEN TO TACKLE GLOBAL WARMING

- ✓ For the past seven years, City of Redmond has been named a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation in recognition of its commitment to its trees and forests. Trees help clean the air, conserve soil and water, and reduce heating and cooling costs by moderating temperatures. Forests also absorb and store global warming pollution.
- ✓ In July 2005, Mayor Ives was one of 45 mayors chosen nationally to attend the International Council for Local Environmental Issues (ICLEI) Sundance Summit: A Mayor's Gathering on Global Warming. The summit was designed to support action on local climate protection and speed the existing work cities are doing to prevent global warming.
- ✓ On February 16, 2005—the same day the Kyoto Protocol went into effect for 141 nations across the globe—Mayor Nickels issued the Kyoto Challenge to mayors across the United States. Mayor Rosemarie Ives was one of the first mayors in the country to join Nickels in this effort.
- ✓ In November 2005, Redmond Mayor Rosemarie Ives participated alongside Seattle Mayor Nickels in the US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement
- ✓ Mayor Ives is currently Chair of the US Conference of Mayors' Sustainability Task Force. The task force focuses on how cities can implement sustainable development at the local level.



protection and restoration that will ensure this area and the associated wetlands support a thriving, diverse community of fish, native plants and wildlife. Trails for a wide range of users will provide connections between parks, other trail corridors and downtown Redmond. Environmental education opportunities, centered at the Conrad Olson Farm but continuing throughout the Greenway system, will foster connections between people visiting the Greenway and the natural systems that wind through it. The Greenway system will build physical, educational and emotional connections between the communities of Redmond, its nearby neighbors and the natural community inhabiting this rich, diverse habitat.

“Global warming has no boundaries, nationalities or religion. Unless we all work together, the children of the world will inherit an over heated unfriendly planet that will impact their daily lives. In Redmond, we must look at everything we do and how it relates to global warming.” Councilmember Jim Robinson

individuals who curtail activities that generate smog – and urges them to continue to protect air quality.

“Everyday activities like driving and fueling up and running lawnmowers create emissions that can lead to smog,” said Dennis McLerran, Executive Director of the Puget Sound Clean Air Agency. “Clean air behaviors can help prevent smoggy days. That’s why we appreciate corporate participation in our voluntary Smog Watch program. Examples are local oil refiners that have voluntarily made smog-reducing gasoline available at the pumps for the summer and businesses that have implemented commute-trip reduction or

anti-idling programs.”

The Puget Sound Clean Air Agency’s Smog Watch program is a call-to-action issued by the agency during summer hot spells when air quality declines. The program encourages individuals and businesses to reduce their smog-producing activities to help protect public health and ensure the region does not exceed the federal health standard for ozone.

Encourage employees to commute with others.

Through programs such as R-TRIP, employers can receive grants to offer incentives to employees, encouraging them to carpool, vanpool or ride the bus or a bike to work.

Forward thinking

The Bear and Evans Creek Trail and Greenway is a connected open space system linking Farrel-McWhirter Park, Johnson Park and downtown Redmond. Bear and Evans Creeks are some of Redmond’s most valuable natural resources. Spawning salmon wind their way through a stream and riparian corridor that includes farmlands; diverse forested wetlands and habitat for birds, mammals, and amphibians.

Redmond’s vision of the future includes habitat

Additionally, the City’s work to expand transportation choices is illustrated in Redmond’s Transportation Master Plan and includes light rail, buses, improved bike and pedestrian opportunities and programs to encourage car or vanpooling.

It’s possible to view climate change as a remote global problem that is beyond the capacity and responsibility of local governments to solve. However, the choices we make in our own community - where we drive our cars, the power we use, the transportation choices we make and how we manage solid waste and land use are directly linked to the future path of greenhouse gas emissions. These all impact the abundant natural surroundings we enjoy in Redmond.